

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03

H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /160 W

----- 046751

R 190925Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2273

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABARONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0882

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF, MZ

SUBJECT: EFFECT OF WAGE INCREASE FOR BLACK GOLD MINE WORKERS

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1111 (NOTAL)

1. HEAD OF WENELA (ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR RECRUITING AND ADMINISTERING MOZAMBIKAN MINE WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA) DOES NOT AGREE WITH VIEW EXPRESSED PARAGRAPH FOUR OF REFTTEL. HE POINTS OUT THAT EVEN WITH RECENT INCREASE, WAGES PAID TO BLACK MINE WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE FAR BELOW WAGES PAID BY INDUSTRY. THUS SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS TEND PREFER GO INTO INDUSTRY AND NO INDICATIONS THAT THIS TREND WILL CHANGE UNLESS THERE SHOULD BE SIGNIFICANT LAY-OFFS OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS DUE TO ECONOMIC DISLOCATIONS CAUSED BY OIL CRISIS.

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WM WENELA DIRECTOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NUMBERS OF MOZAMBIKAN

AFRICANS APPLYING FOR SOUTH AFRICAN MINES HAS FALLEN OFF
SLIGHTLY THIS YEAR BUT ATTRIBUTES THIS TO UNUSUALLY HEAVY
RAINFALL AND CONSEQUENT INCREASE IN FOOD CROPS WHICH REDUCES
IMPETUS FOR AFRICAN VILLAGERS TO APPLY FOR WORK IN MINES.
WERE IT NOT FOR THIS FACTOR, WENELA DIRECTOR WOULD EXPECT
EVEN LARGER THAN NORMAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER FROM MOZAMIBQUE
IN ORDER TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIGHER WAGES.
VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

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